



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION  
CALIFORNIA DIVISION  
980 Ninth Street, Suite 400  
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724  
June 24, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO  
HDA-CA  
Document # 42924

Mr. Jeff Morales, Director  
California Department of Transportation  
1120 N Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Branch, Room 3500  
For Kris Balaji, Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: FY 2002/03 FSTIP Amendment No. 9 – Madera County Transportation  
Commission (MCTC)

We have completed our review of Amendment No. 9 to the State Highway Element of the MCTC's 2002/03-2004/05 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) that was submitted by your letter dated May 23, 2003. MCTC adopted this amendment with Resolution No. 02-06, Amendment No. 9, on March 26, 2003, approving these program modifications and reaffirming the conformity of the MCTC FTIP with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality.

This amendment was requested by MCTC as follows:

- Modifies funding for the State Route 99/Gateway Drive off-ramp project (MAD217002) in Madera County. The project scope includes interchange modifications between the Gateway Drive off-ramp and South Madera overcrossing along State Route 99. The amendment programs a total of \$426,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2002/03 for the right of way phase, and a total of \$6,830,00 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2003/04 for the construction phase. Funding is "carryover" from prior years programming.

FHWA notes Caltrans confirmation that the financial impacts of this amendment are compatible with anticipated revenues in the FY 2002/03 FSTIP Financial Plan and do not significantly affect the FSTIP's overall financial analysis.

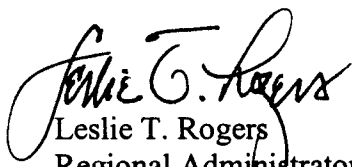
We accept this amendment in accordance with the provisions of 23 CFR Part 450. We find that this amendment was developed through a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process carried out in accordance with the provisions of 23 U.S.C. section 134, and section 8 of the Federal Transit Act (49 U.S.C. app. §1607). Based on our review, we find that the project has been included in the regional emissions analysis for the Madera County 2001 (2025/26) Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) with design concept and scope adequately detailed to determine its contribution to the transportation plan's regional

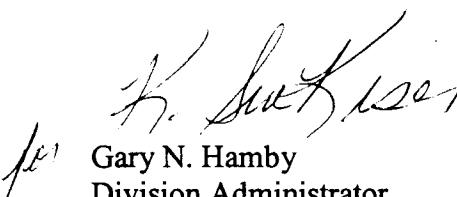
emissions at the time of the transportation plan's conformity determination, and that the design concept, scope and implementation schedule of the project is not significantly different from that described in the transportation plan. We further note that in accordance with provisions of the MOU with MCTC, in a letter of April 8, 2003, the Council of Fresno County Governments (COFCG) has made a finding that this amendment has no bearing on air quality conformity.

We therefore find that the MCTC FTIP through Amendment No. 9 conforms to the applicable SIP in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR Parts 51 and 93 as well as the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) and FTA's January 2, 2002, guidance *Revised Guidance for Implementing the March 1999 Circuit Court Decision Affecting Transportation Conformity* and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) May 14, 1999, guidance *Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision*. This finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

This letter also constitutes approval and inclusion of MCTC's FTIP Amendment No. 9 into California's 2002/03 – 2004/05 Federal Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

Sincerely,

  
Leslie T. Rogers  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Transit Administration

  
Gary N. Hamby  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway Administration

c:

EPA Region IX, Karina O'Connor

FTA Region IX, Ray Sukys

MCTC FTIP Binder

MCTC, Patricia Taylor-Maley

MCTC, Bob Stone

COFCG, Mike Bitner

COFCG, Jason Paukovits

Caltrans:

Randy Steen, Federal Resources Branch

Jim Nicholas, Transportation Programming

Abhijit Bagde, Transportation Programming

Terry Abbott, Office of Local Programs

Kris Balaji, Office of Federal Program Management (FAX: 916-654-2738)

LLevine:ll